

Newsletter Mutanyana Weru, Autumn 2015.

This newsletter is dedicated to the 50-years anniversary of Father André van Zon's priesthood. Earlier this year he celebrated this fact in Mozambique and in August it has been celebrated in his birthplace Venhorst.

The celebration started with a holy mass in the local church. The theme of the mass was:

Meeting, breaking and sharing by the table of daily life

The mass was followed by a reception in the civic centre. On his way to the centre Father André was surprised by the cooperating of the Guild of Gunmen hitting their drums and swaying their banner.



During the reception Father André was again

surprised that the Mayor started his speech with the words: "The King of The Netherlands has the pleasure to knight you in the Order of Orange Nassau".

The third surprise was a special Certificate handed to him on behalf of the Pope in Rome.

And all this as a token of recognition for all his work for the poorest people in the world.

A press-release was made and you can read more details of this anniversary in the following translated press release. The editorial staff has added some extra pictures to give you a better impression.

If you are interested in seeing pictures of the celebration you can go to You Tube, copy the link: **BlokTV:20150913_1 Andre van Zon** and paste it into the search area.

1. My thanks for the celebration

September 20th. Father André van Zon returned to his Mission area in and around Maputo Mozambique. His vacation with his family in his native village Venhorst



incorporated a special occasion: the 50-years anniversary of his priesthood. The Congregation of the

Holy Sacrament had prepared a special service on Sunday August 16th.

A special gala mass has been celebrated and preceded by Mgr. Jan van Brugstede and Father André van Zon. They were assisted by 10 fellow priests and the pastor of the church Mgr. Piet van Velthoven, Dean-pastor Theo van Osch, missionary Toon van Kessel and acolyte Wil van Oort.



The choir of the church was directed by Mrs. Ida van Duijnhoven and accompanied by the player of the organ Mrs. Tonny van Brussel. The Guild St. Agatha graced the coming and going of the clergy by swaying the Guild flag and thus participating in a festive way to the celebration.

After the Mass the reception started in the local civic centre named "De Horst" which started with a salute of the Guild, as shown on the picture on the left.

Because so many people wanted to congratulate Father André with this mile stone, people had to queue as the civic centre was not large enough. A smiling and noticeable happy Father André accepted with great pleasure all the good wishes of family, friends and acquaintances. During the line-up there were performances of the dancing groups VENJA, de Heidebloem and the Venhorst line dancers. They congratulated Father André in their own specific way: by dancing!

Worth mentioning the highlight of the celebration was the special Certificate that was handed to Father André by the Provincial Prior of the Congregation



Father Maurits Gijbrecchts on behalf of Pope Franciscus in Rome.

The second highlight was the knighting of Father André in the Order of Orange Nassau. This was done

by the Mayor of Venhorst Mr. Pierre Bos, who did this on behalf of His Majesty King Willem Alexander.

We owe a lot of thanks to the organisers of this celebration: the Church and Parish of Venhorst, the choir, its conductor and organ player, the Guild St. Agatha, the dance groups and not to forget the large number of visitors attending the Holy Mass and the reception. There also were a large number of congratulation by mail or telephone.

Apart from all these congratulations Father André expressed his thanks for the moral and financial support that he received over all the years for his protégées in Mozambique. Father André, his Congregation of the Holy Sacrament and his Family look back with great gratitude to this beautiful celebration which they shared with you and the communities of Venhorst and Boekel (and surroundings).
Venhorst, October 2015



2 Finances

Also this year our Foundation transferred the promised amount of €20000 to the bank account of Father André in Maputo.

He mentioned to be debt-free thanks to the continuous gifts over the recent years, and the special donations during the 50-year anniversary celebration where he received a substantial amount of money. He is also very grateful for the special actions of the Brakkestein Convent in Nijmegen during the Advent and Easter period. The results of these action for him were a 'gift from Heaven'.

May we count on your gift again?

3 Situation in Maputo

The re-integration project goes full steam ahead. The women of the project work on their fields and use the harvested product for themselves and their children and the surplus is being sold on the local market. They still need the support of Father André in the form of advice, purchase of seed, uniforms for school-going children etc. With all this support these children have a better future prospect.

During his recent visit to Holland one of the women of the project, the handicapped Telma, offered here services and contributed a lot in keeping the project rolling during the absence of Father André.

During his stay in Holland Father André mentioned that of the approx. 100 women of the project, 25 of them are mentally or physically handicapped. For them re-integration in the local community is impossible and these women will continue to need support.

4 Finally

We wish you all a merry Christmas and happy new year.

[Thanks again for your support!!](#)

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